

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the Abstract and insert the following text in lieu thereof:

An elongated coronary vein lead having a variable stiffness lead body and adapted for advancement into a selected coronary vein for delivering a pacing or defibrillation signal to a predetermined region of a patient's heart, such as the left ventricle. A method of pacing and/or defibrillating a patient's heart using the lead is also described. The method of pacing and/or defibrillating the heart includes advancing the coronary vein lead through both the coronary sinus and into a selected coronary vein of a patient's heart, connecting the lead to an electrical power source and applying electrical stimulation to a particular chamber of the patient's heart via the implanted lead. The lead includes a variable stiffness lead body that enhances the ability of the lead to be retained in a coronary vein after the lead has been implanted therein.